



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 5, 2008

CONTACT: TAMMY HEISE
(615) 532-0929

FALL CREEK FALLS TO HOST WATERFALLS WEEKEND MARCH 15-16 **PARK INN OFFERING SPECIAL ROOM RATES FOR EVENT AT INN**

Nashville, Tenn. - Fall Creek Falls State Park will host Waterfalls Weekend March 15-16. This event will offer visitors both easy jaunts and strenuous hikes to see some of the region's spectacular waterfalls at the park and other, nearby natural areas. Local park and geology experts will lead hikes and interpretive sessions throughout the weekend.

At Fall Creek Falls, a number of guided hikes will be offered for both novice and experienced hikers. The park is home to a beautiful gorge with awe-inspiring scenic overlooks and magnificent waterfalls. The most popular of these waterfalls is Fall Creek Falls - for which the park is named. This waterfall, which cascades down 256 feet, is the tallest single vertical drop fall east of the Rocky Mountains. The park also offers Cane Creek Falls, Cane Creek Cascades, Piney Falls and several other impressive falls.

Several guided hikes also will be offered at nearby natural areas, and carpooling from the park to other locations will be necessary to participate in these events.

At Virgin Falls State Natural Area, participants will take a guided hike to Virgin Falls. This 110-foot tall waterfall is created by an underground stream that emerges from a cave to drop over a cliff and then disappears at the bottom of the sink into another cave. Registration is required for this hike. Please contact Forrest Evans at (615) 532-0431 or forrest.evans@state.tn.us by March 13 for details.

Another guided hike will be offered at Laurel-Snow State Natural Area in Rhea County. There, participants will hike approximately five miles to view the 80-foot tall Laurel Falls.

A five-mile guided hike through the Polly's Branch area will offer views of Upper and Lower Polly Branch Falls, Jenny Branch Falls and the Yellow Bluff overlook of the Caney Fork Gulf. These beautiful falls in the Scott's Gulf region of White County are between 15 and 30 feet tall.

Fall Creek Falls Inn will offer special room packages for Waterfalls Weekend. Cost is \$125.52 for a two-night stay in a single-occupancy room, and \$145.96 for a two-night stay in a double-occupancy room. Prices also include breakfast on Saturday and Sunday.

Fall Creek Falls State Park is a 25,000-acre paradise in the eastern Cumberland Plateau. Located just 40 miles south of Cookeville and 65 miles north of Chattanooga, the park offers incredible scenic beauty and recreational opportunities. Beautiful waterfalls, tremendous canyons and dense forests are protected within the park's boundaries. Visitors will find a 250-site campground, a hotel and conference center and 30 cabins among the park's many amenities. For more information about the park, visit <http://state.tn.us/environment/parks/FallCreekFalls>.

For more information about the Waterfalls Weekend, please call the Betty Dunn Nature Center at (423) 881-5708. Call the Tennessee State Parks reservation line toll-free at 1-800-250-8610 to make a reservation at the park's inn.

###

